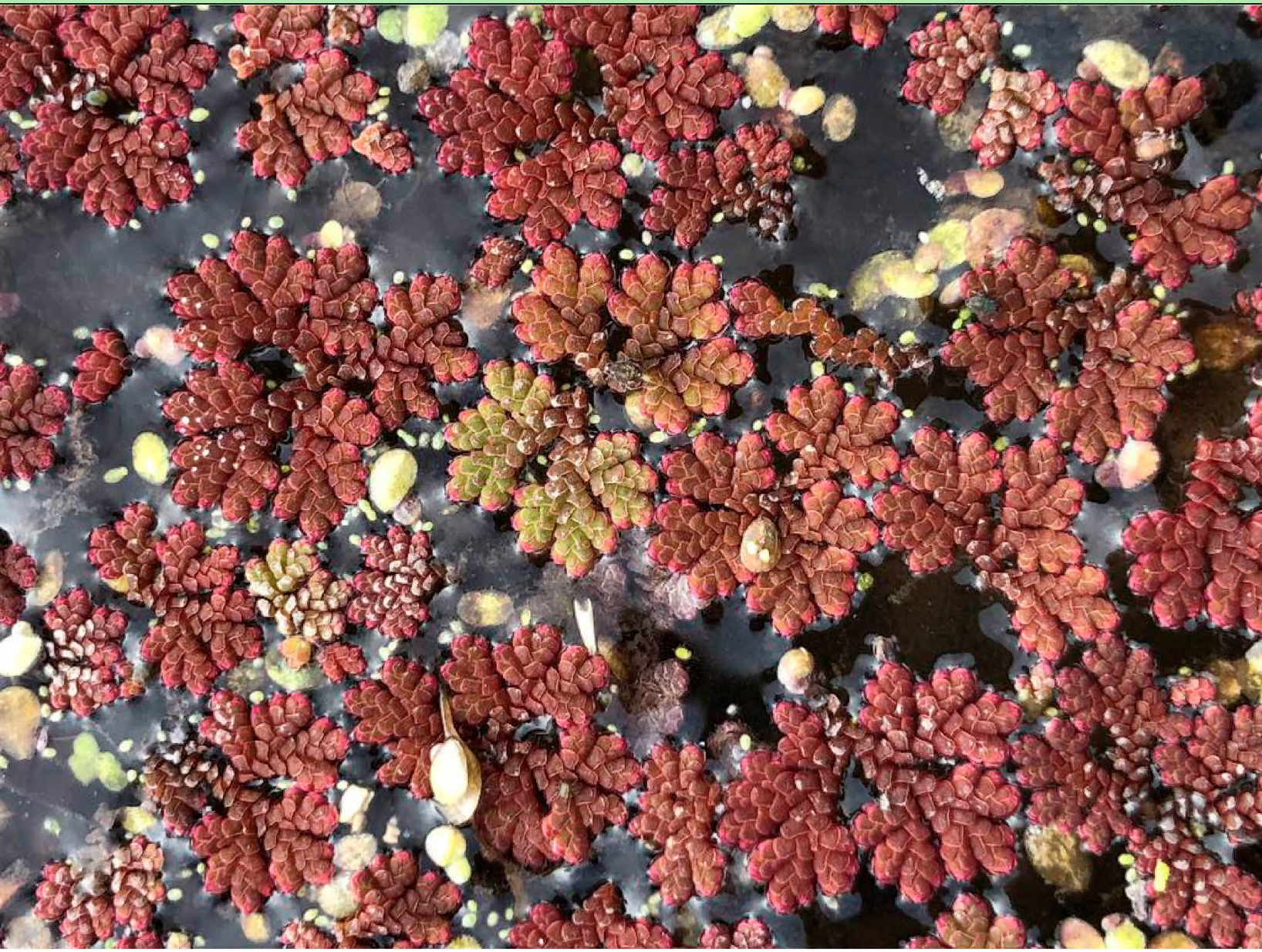
Illinois Native Plant Society

The Harbinger

Newsletter *of the* Illinois Native Plant Society

WINTER 2024
VOL. 41, NO. 4

"...dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois."



Azolla microphylla (Mexican mosquito fern) on a pond in Randolph County, Illinois.
Photo by Matt Tomlinson.

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Message from the President

Greeting INPS members,

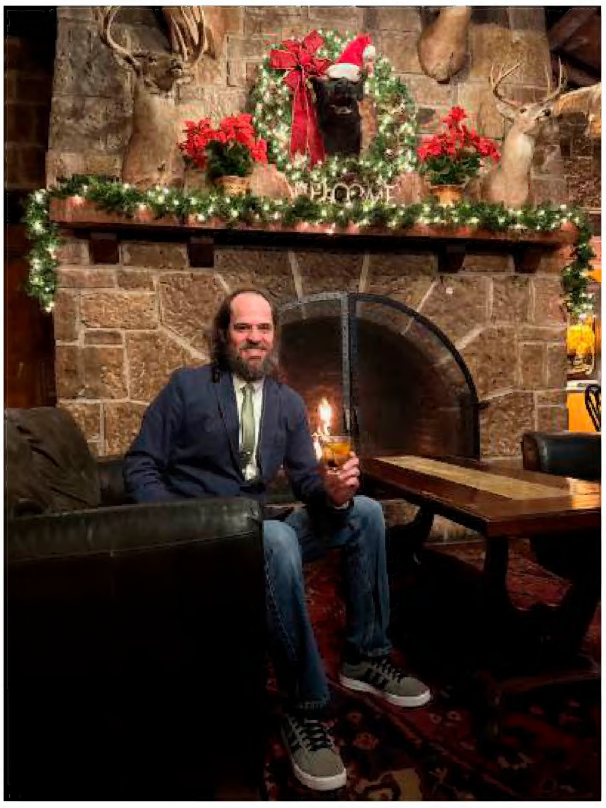
Happy holidays! The end of the year tends to be a time for rest and reflection, and I offer some reflections on 2024 for the Illinois Native Plant Society. Our organization continues to be strong and made up of members with good ideas to further our mission. We welcomed five new board members this year, plus a new webmaster and new assistant webmaster. We revamped our website and are continuing to improve the membership join and renewal functions. We funded four research grants and opened our 2025 grant program for applications (due January 15, 2025). Our chapters held field trips, symposia, lectures and plant sales. We had an Annual Gathering centered on the Schulenberg Prairie in northeast Illinois. We continue working on our Code of Conduct, and on some necessary updates to the by-laws, which will be presented in 2025. We are also piloting using Substack to send out emails to members.

INPS will be sending out a ballot for vacant positions on the state governing board soon, which will be open until early January. Please vote! Also, save the date for the 2025 Annual Gathering: June 20-22 2025, hosted by the Southern Chapter.

Enjoy this time of rest and reflection. See you in 2025!

Emily

Message from the Editor



It's been a great year for me botanically speaking and I am fortunate to be able to work on many fun botanical projects. It's also been fun to produce these newsletters, along with Brian and Katie, for the Illinois Native Plant Society, an organization that I am very passionate about. I hope you enjoy this final issue of 2024, and that you and your family/friends have a happy and safe holiday season.
–Chris Benda, Co-Editor

Submissions to the newsletter are always welcome! Please contact editors Chris Benda (botanizer@gmail.com) and Brian Charles (brianmc4@illinois.edu). Deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1 for the spring, summer, fall, and winter issues respectively.

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The Illinois Native Plant Society applications for Research Grants and Survey Grants are now live!

illinoisplants.org/grants-announcement/

Students, citizen scientists, and conservation groups are invited to consider applying for an INPS Research Grant for up to $3,000 to fund one-year projects. This grant focuses on research dealing with Illinois native plants and their communities, such as their life history, reproductive biology, demography, genetics, comparative site inventories, or habitat ecology; research on threats to native plants and communities, such as invasive species, are acceptable. Laboratory research on native plants, as well as projects focused on research relating to education about or restoration of native plants or communities are also eligible.

INPS will also continue its second grant in 2025: the Survey Grant. This grant for up to $5,000 will fund searches for Illinois Endangered, Threatened or several rare plant species of conservation concern for which current data is inadequate to assess their status and for which field surveys, and recovery recommendations, are needed. A priority list of species to be surveyed is based on source including the recommendations of the Endangered Species Protection Board 2024 Listing Process and the Illinois Natural History Survey's Recommendations to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Experienced botanical field surveyors, either independent or associated with an institution, are invited to apply for this grant. Partnerships are encouraged.

Applications are due by January 31, 2025.
Awards will be announced by March 31, 2025.
(These dates may be slightly adjusted in the final published Guidelines.)

INPS mourns the passing of two men who made enormous contributions to botany in Illinois.

Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock of Carbondale was born in nearby Murphysboro and is the founder of INPS and foremost authority on wild plants in Illinois.
legacy.com/us/obituaries/thesouthern/name/robert-mohlenbrock-obituary?id=56734728
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_H._Mohlenbrock

Henry "Weeds" Eilers of Litchfield was born in Germany and made his life in Illinois growing plants and teaching others in Montgomery County and beyond.
tributearchive.com/obituaries/33736103/henry-helmut-eilers/litchfield/illinois/plummer-funeral-home

Many members have cherished moments in the company of these men and they will be dearly missed.

Chapter News

For information about each chapter, visit our website at
illinoisplants.org/chapter-locations

A Field Guide to Field Guides, Part 3

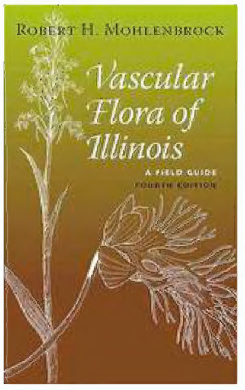
By Chris Benda

If you are like me, then you love collecting field guides. I just returned from vacation to the southwest and purchased 3 new botanical field guides to fill my bookshelves (which were already full!). Previous issues in *The Harbinger* this year included a two-part series by Jack Shouba titled "A Field Guide to Field Guides," where he shares his favorite botanical field guides. The series continues as I share some of the field guides that I rely on for identification and taxonomy of plants in Illinois and the Midwest in general.

Technical Guides

These are the unofficial textbooks for the botanically advanced. These guidebooks are ideal because they are comprehensive, meaning they include all known species of the given region at the time of publication. However, they are also very technical, with lots of specific terminology and reliance on characteristics that can confuse many lay people, but for the serious lover of botany, they are a must have.

***Vascular Flora of Illinois* and the *Illustrated* series by Robert Mohlenbrock**

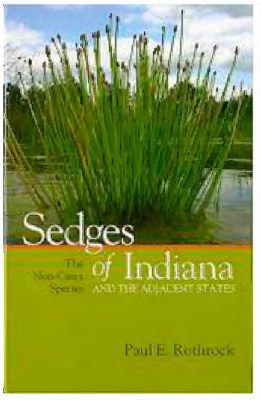


The current edition is the 4th and was published in 2014. A lot of the nomenclature changed with this edition, but this is the book students learned from when taking botany classes in Illinois, many of whom studied with the author and legendary teacher, Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock. I like this book because not only does it include almost all of the species one would encounter in the wild in Illinois, but it is also a reasonable size and weight for use in the field. However, there are no species descriptions, nor any photos or illustrations, and lot of very technical terms are used in the dichotomous keys. More information for a majority of plant families in Illinois are available in the illustrated series, which is many volumes and unfortunately does not cover large and common plant families like the Carrots (Apiaceae), Peas (Fabaceae) and Mints (Lamiaceae).

***Flora of Missouri* by George Yatskievych**

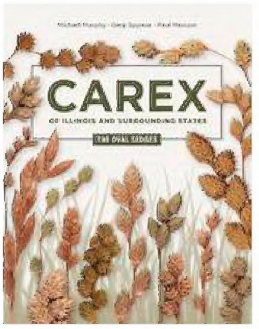
This 3-volume set of Missouri's Flora is an update of the renowned *Flora of Missouri* by Julian Steyermark. Illinois shares a lot of plant species with Missouri, so it is a good companion to the *Flora of Illinois* mentioned above. I like it because it includes species descriptions and illustrations, as well as great commentary. It is also a great value. However, each of the 3 volumes is a large, hardcover book, so they stay on my bookshelf as terrific reference material when I return home from the field, although I know some botanists that have electronic versions on their mobile devices.

***Sedges of Indiana* by Paul Rothrock**



These relatively recently published field guides are the standard for technical and comprehensive guidebooks in the 21st century. There are 2 volumes that cover the sedge family (Cyperaceae). The first one includes all genera of sedges in Indiana except the *Carex* genus, while the second volume details just the *Carex* genus. These hard-cover books are small enough for the field and the photographs are superb. Plus, the author includes distributions of the profiled species in Illinois, as well as Indiana and other states.

***Carex of Illinois and the Surrounding States: The Oval Sedges* by Mike Murphy, Paul Marcum, and Greg Spyreas**

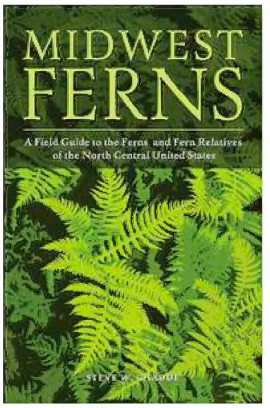


This book was just published and I received my copy just a few weeks ago. The book has excellent photographs on durable, high-quality paper. It only includes information about sedges in the section Cyperoidea (formerly Ovales), which are the Oval Sedges, but this is a challenging group worthy of focus. I like the distribution maps, which are based on verified herbarium specimens, and it provides an update on some species compared to another highly reputable book, Dr. Mohlenbrock's *Illustrated Carex of Illinois*.

***Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee: The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use* by Ronald L. Jones and B. Eugene Wofford**

This is one of my favorite guidebooks because it focuses on characteristics of woody plants that are often ignored, such as twigs, buds, leaf scars, etc. It includes a dichotomous key that relies on characteristics visible in the dormant season. The photographs are tremendously sharp and helpful, making it a highly useful book for identifying trees, shrubs, and vines during the winter months.

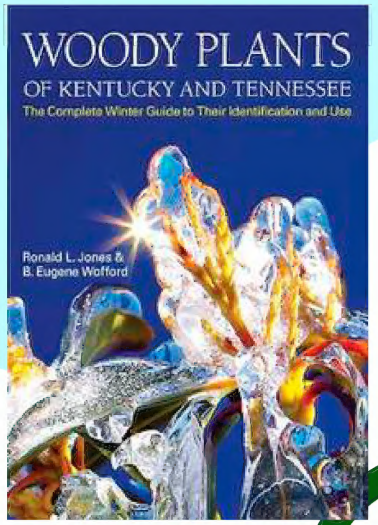
***Midwest Ferns* by Steve W. Chadde**



This comprehensive field guide to ferns of the North Central United States is published in black and white, but includes some well-drawn illustrations. I like how it includes state/provincial-level distribution maps for North America (including Canada) and county-level distribution maps for states in the Midwest, including Illinois. I also really like how it includes information about the origin and meaning of the names of the ferns, as well as discussing similar species and how they can be differentiated.

Flora of the Southeastern United States (FSUS) by Alan Weakley

The last technical guide I will cover isn't a book, but a website/phone app. One could obtain a PDF and print it, but this is primarily an electronic resource. The great thing about this guide is that the information is being continually updated by Alan and his team in North Carolina. The focus of the area includes southeastern states, so only the southern portion of Illinois is covered, but the keys are often different than what is used in other guidebooks for Illinois and for tricky species identifications, multiple resources are typically necessary for accurate identification of a given species. There are many reasons that set this resource apart from other guides.


WOODY PLANTS
OF KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE
The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use
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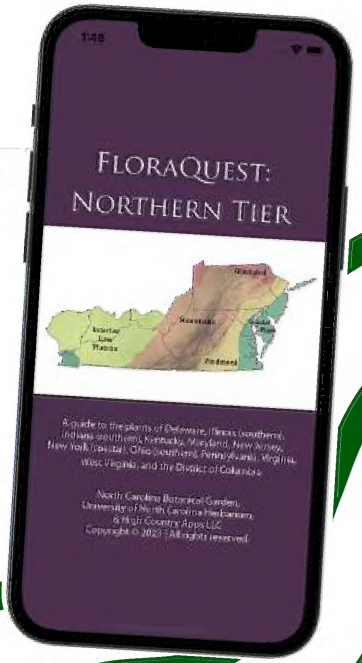
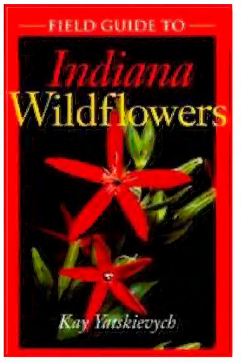
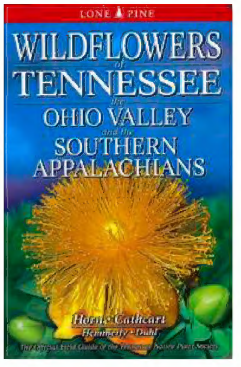


Non-technical Guides

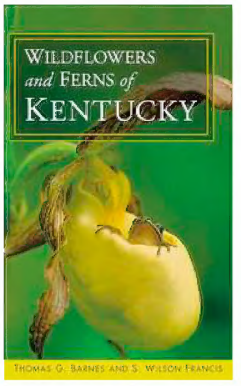
These books are developed for the general user and typically rely heavily on pretty photographs of flowers. I learned using *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* by Lawrence Newcomb, a book that Jack profiled in the part 1 of his series published in *The Harbinger* Vol. 41, No. 1 Spring 2024. But when I was first learning plants, I liked these general guidebooks that I could easily flip through page by page and admire the beautiful wildflowers and aspire to seek them out. Jack covered a lot of my favorites already, so this is in addition to his excellent list.



Indiana Wildflowers **by Kay Yatskievych**
This is another great guidebook for learning wildflowers because it is in between a pretty photo guide and a more technical guide. I also like it because it includes all herbaceous species known to occur in Indiana except for grasses, rushes, and sedges, which totals 1,564 species. Not every wildflower has an accompanying photo, but photos are included of what she terms "visual groups," allowing the reader to get a sense of the flower structure for each genus. However, while species are grouped by family, they are not ordered in a way that makes it easy to flip to the page of interest without looking at the index.



Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians
by Dennis Horn, Tavia Cathcart, and Tom Hemmerly
This is one of my favorite guidebooks for southern Illinois. The book covers a large area, so it includes many species that don't occur in Illinois, but it includes many wildflowers often left out of other guidebooks. The thing I like the most about it is that the species are listed by family instead of color, making it a great resource for learning which species and genera are included in each family. The photos are small, but that allows for space to include hundreds of species in a book with sturdy pages that can easily fit in a backpack.



Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky **by Thomas G. Barnes and S. Wilson Francis**
Like the previous entry, this book includes wildflowers that are more likely to occur in the southern part of Illinois. I like how ferns are included in the book, a group of plants often left out of pretty photo guides, but the wildflower species are listed by color and season, which is less useful for understanding which species are grouped together in a family. It also only includes entries for 500 species, when the flora of Kentucky includes over 2,000 wildflower species.

Puzzling Out Pondweeds and Other Aquatic Plants

By Valerie Sivicek

Most of us familiar with aquatic habitats in Illinois are aware that relatively undegraded ones are hard to find. When we do manage to visit a high-quality stream or one of the few mostly intact glacial lakes in the northeast corner of the state, we're likely to find some plants we don't see every day. Even disturbed lakes and streams often support a remnant aquatic flora, including some of the pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.). Many botanists find this group intimidating, and indeed the pusilloid group (including species such as *P. pusillus* and *P. berchtoldii*) can be difficult even for experts. But luckily there are multiple ways to identify most species, and the presence of flowers or fruits usually isn't necessary. Many of these species are highly variable, though, in their leaf size and general appearance.

Here are some characters that can be used to puzzle out a pondweed:

- Presence or absence of a pair of nodal glands at the base of each leaf, which resemble small pimples along the stem on either side of the leaf attachment point
- Number of veins in submersed leaves
- Leaf tip shape
- Stipules (size, shape, etc) and leaf attachment (petiolate vs sessile, etc)
- Presence/absence of floating leaves, and morphological similarities between floating and submersed leaves
- Lacunae bands (rows of transparent cells on either side of the midvein)
- Appearance of winter buds (turions)

Some common pondweed species still found even in our developed lakes include *P. illinoensis*, *P. nodosus*, and *P. zosterformis*. Native aquatic species in other genera also often present in slightly or moderately disturbed sites include water celery (*Vallisneria americana*), water star grass (*Heteranthera dubia*), sago pondweed (*Stuckenia pectinata*), Elodea (*E. canadensis* and *E. nuttallii*), coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and white water crowfoot (*Ranunculus longirostris* or *R. trichophyllus*, lumped by some authorities into *R. aquatilis*). A higher-quality lake could also support *P. amplifolius* and *P. natans*, or *P. richardsonii* in sandy-bottom sites near Lake Michigan. Our common bladderwort species, *Utricularia macrorhiza*, can sometimes be found in quiet backwaters and stagnant sites, where it feeds on tiny aquatic organisms.

White water crowfoot (*Ranunculus longirostris*) in bloom.

P. amplifolius is distinctive among pondweeds for its huge recurved leaves. Its stipules are long and keeled. *P. illinoensis* has long, pointed stipules as well, but narrower leaves. Both produce floating leaves, unlike beautiful *P. richardsonii* with its bright green, almost iridescent leaves and bright white veins. *P. richardsonii* has clasping leaves. *P. nodosus*, one of our most common pondweeds, has floating leaves and its long, narrow submersed leaves with very long petioles are distinctive within the genus. *P. natans* can produce floating leaves that look superficially similar to *P. nodosus*, but its leaf bases are cordate rather than tapered, and there is an obvious color change from green to pinkish beige in its petioles just below the leaf attachment point. Its submersed leaves are filiform, looking a bit like long petioles with no leaf attached.

Long-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*) showing underwater leaves (top of image) and floating leaves (bottom of image).

Floating pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) showing cordate leaf bases and pale color on the petioles just below the leaf attachment.

Like *P. richardsonii*, *P. zosterformis* produces no floating leaves. It has long, narrow submersed leaves. It can look superficially similar to *H. dubia* when sterile, but its stems are obviously flattened, and its leaves have midveins. *H. dubia* has round stems, no midvein, and a leafier appearance. *S. pectinata* has long narrow leaves as well, but they are linear and in branched, congested clusters. Its pinkish-brown egg-shaped fruits are distinctive.

V. americana is a rosette-forming species with long, iridescent leaves that have obvious lacunae bands. Like underwater rosettes of pipewort (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*) and arrowhead species (*Sagittaria* spp.), this species has septate roots, meaning each root is segmented.

Several pusilloid pondweed species can also be found in sites over a wide range of quality. *P. pusillus* and *P. berchtoldii* are common, and *P. foliosus* can be found even in artificial retention ponds and ditches. *P. foliosus* has no nodal glands. Its inflorescences are axillary, and its leaf tips are acute. *P. pusillus* and *P. berchtoldii* can both have nodal glands. Their inflorescences are terminal. *P. berchtoldii* has a congested inflorescence, while *P. pusillus* typically has an inflorescence that is more spread out, with fruits appearing in stacked whorls. Sterile specimens can be identified by a ligule character (connate in *P. pusillus* vs. free in *P. berchtoldii*), but this can be difficult to see.

Many common aquatic plants appear as very long trailing, often floating stems with highly dissected leaves. *Elodea* species have entire leaves, but also have long stems with densely packed whorls of three. When not in bloom, *Ranunculus longirostris* and *R. trichophyllus* can be distinguished from other species with highly dissected, branching leaves by their obvious petioles arising from sheathes widely spaced and alternate along each stem. *U. macrorhiza* has branching petiolate alternate leaves as well, but the leaves are denser along the stem, petioles are shorter, and its tiny bladders are obvious at or below the branching points of its leaves. Alternate leaves of these species distinguish them from state-endangered water-marigold (*Bidens beckii*), which also has fine, branching submersed leaves, but these are arranged in whorls. A common species in degraded sites, *C. demersum*, has whorled branching leaves as well, but with obvious teeth. Milfoil species (*Myriophyllum* spp.) have whorled leaves, but leaves are pinnate. Unfortunately, our most common milfoil is the highly invasive Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). This species is distinctive for its robust size and many paired leaf segments (14-21) in comparison with more delicate native species. Each leaf tip is flattened, as though snipped off with a pair of scissors.

Bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*) with floating leaves (left) and submerged carnivorous bladders (right). Photos by Greg Spyreas.

A trip north of the Illinois border is an excellent way to observe aquatic species less common in Illinois, especially pondweed species rare and listed in Illinois such as *P. gramineus*, *P. robbinsii*, *P. epihydrus*, and *P. strictifolius*. Lakes, ponds, deepwater wetlands, and streams in the northern half of Wisconsin often have these conservative species in abundance. Bog lakes and ponds,

abundant in northeast WI, are home to species that favor acidic water, such as *P. epihydrus*, *P. oakesianus*, and water shield (*Brasenia shreiberi*). Additional Utricularia species are common to our north as well. Mission Lake, near Hatley, WI is an excellent place to find a rich community of hard to neutral water species. This site is easy to access via an adjacent county park. Sylvania Wilderness, just across the border in the upper peninsula of Michigan offers a group of lakes with easy portages in between and enough range in aquatic habitat type that a wide range of species can be observed.

"Up north" is also a good place to see our less common pond lilies. In Illinois, our typical white pond lily is *Nymphaea odorata* subsp. *tuberosa*, which has narrow red or purple stripes running down each petiole. *Nymphaea odorata* subsp. *odorata*, much more common to the north of us, has a solid green or purple petiole, and the undersides of its leaves are often solid purple. Our common yellow pond lily, *Nuphar advena*, typically holds its leaves above the water surface and its petioles are round in cross section, while *Nuphar variegata*, also rare in Illinois but more frequent in the northern states, has leaves that float on the surface of the water, and its petioles are typically flattened on one side and winged.

Yellow pond lily (*Nuphar advena*) among cattails at Illinois Beach State Park.
Photo by Greg Spyreas

For further learning about aquatic plant species, I highly recommend taking Dr. Barre Hellquist's weeklong summer seminar at the Eagle Hill Institute in Stueben, Maine. This course covers most species found in the upper Midwest as well as the Northeast. Shorter workshops are also occasionally offered in Wisconsin through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and UW instructor Paul Skawinski has published a helpful photographic field guide, *Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest*.

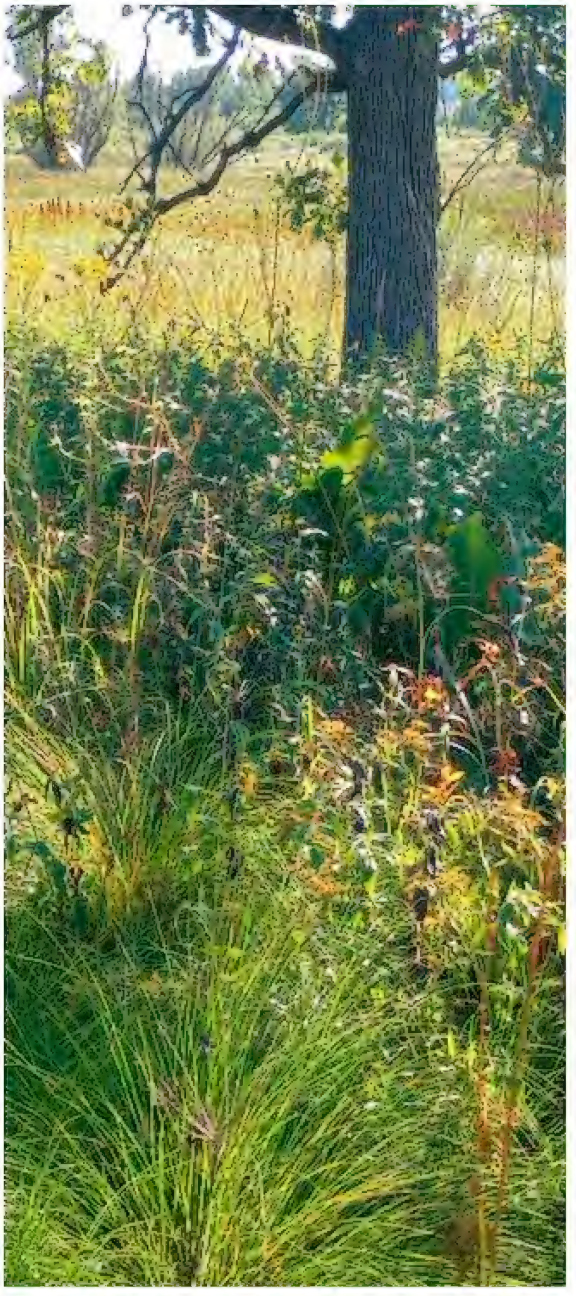
Floristic Inventories and Plant Community Indicators in Two Upper Des Plaines River Nature Preserves

By Will Overbeck, M.Sc. and Derek Ziomber, B.Sc.

In 2023, the Illinois Native Plant Society sponsored a permitted floristic inventory at several nature preserves in the Des Plaines River valley. Two of these preserves, Wadsworth Prairie and Grainger Woods, are located within the upper Des Plaines River watershed and are owned and managed by Lake County Forest Preserve District. Wadsworth Prairie covers 1030 acres, of which approximately 120 acres were surveyed for high-quality remnant plant communities. Grainger Woods consists of 195 acres, of which about 185 acres were surveyed to delineate high-quality natural communities. Several other preserves in the lower Des Plaines River valley were also surveyed including Cranberry Slough, Cap Sauers Holding, and Paw Paw Woods. The financial support of a research grant from the Illinois Native Plant Society for this project is gratefully acknowledged.

Wadsworth Prairie and Grainger Woods are within the Kettle Moraine section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. They are associated with the lake border moraine system which forms part of a continental divide separating the Great Lakes watershed from the Mississippi River watershed. The Northeastern Morainal Division is characterized by Wisconsinan stage glacial deposits composed of silt, sand, and gravel as well as numerous glacial kettles and valleys left by retreating ice. The area is covered by a mosaic of forests, oak woodlands, savannas, prairies, and various wetland types depending on local soil conditions, aspect, and disturbance history. Disturbance history such as erosion, burning, ecological succession, logging, farming, and grazing influence contemporary plant associations.

The plant communities of Wadsworth Prairie can be divided into four major associations: dry-mesic savanna, mesic prairie, wet-mesic prairie, and wet prairie-sedge meadow. Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is the dominant canopy tree, with some stands of Hill's oak (*Q. ellipsoidalis*) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).



Sporobolus heterolepis – prairie dropseed in dry-mesic savanna at Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve

At Wadsworth Prairie, observations documented 73 native species with an additional four (4) non-native species and a Native Mean C of 4.84 in the wet prairie-sedge meadow. Observations documented 107 native species with an additional nine (9) non-native species and a Native Mean C of 4.58 in the wet-mesic prairie. Observations documented 73 native species with an additional 20 non-native species and a Native Mean C of 4.29 in the mesic prairie. Observations documented 110 native species with an additional 27 non-native species and a Native Mean C of 4.45 in the dry-mesic savanna.

Wet-mesic prairie with prairie dock – *Silphium terebinthinaceum*

Pyrola elliptica – shinleaf in mesic forest

Wadsworth Prairie contains characteristic grassland species that once formed the dominant herbaceous layer over much of Illinois. Dry-mesic savanna and mesic prairie is characterized by *Allium cernuum*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Dichanthelium liebergii*, *Lathyrus venosus*, *Lithospermum canescens*, *Moehringia lateriflora*, *Panicum flexile*, *Sporobolis heterolepis*, *Symphyotrichum laeve*, *Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*, *Taenidia integerrima*, *Thalictrum thalicroides*, and *Veronicastrum virginicum*. Indicators of wet-mesic prairie and wet prairie-sedge meadow are *Acorus americanus*, *Campanula aparinoides*, *Carex tenera*, *Cicuta maculata*, *Galium tinctorium*, *Lathyrus palustris*, *Lysmachia quadriflora*, *Oxypolis rigidior*, *Poa palustris*, *Rumex britannica*, *Salix myricoides*, *Solidago riddellii*, *Symphyotrichum puniceum*, *Vernonia fasciculata*, and *Viola nephrophylla*.

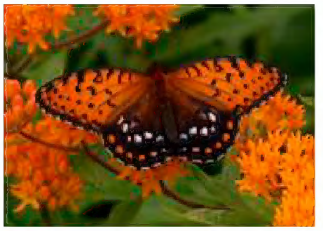
At Grainger Woods two plant communities were delineated: mesic forest and northern flatwoods. Mesic forest is characterized by a canopy of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and northern red oak (*Q. rubra*) with a well-developed sapling and shrub layer in the forest understory. Northern flatwoods is characterized by a canopy of trees that withstand flooding such as black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) and bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*). Northern flatwoods contain ephemeral ponds and many wetland species including: *Boltonia asteroides*, *Caltha palustris*, *Cardamine bulbosa*, *Carex alopecoidea*, *Carex bromoides*, *Carex gracillima*, *Carex grayi*, *Carex muskingumensis*, *Carex squarrosa*, *Ilex verticillata*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Lycopus rubellus*, *Lysmachia ciliata*, *Saxifraga pensylvanica*, *Sium suave*, *Solidago patula*, and *Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*. The mesic forest herbaceous layer contains several unique indicator species including: *Actea pachypoda*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Anemone quinquefolia*, *Brachyelytrum erectrum*, *Cardamine douglassii*, *Carex sprengellii*, *Carex woodii*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Dichanthelium latifolium*, *Diervilla lonicera*, *Enemion biternatum*, *Eurybia furcatus*, *Eurybia macrophylla*, *Floerkea proserpinacoides*, *Hamamelis virginiana*, *Helianthus decapetalus*, *Nabalus altissimus*, *Polemonium reptans*, *Pyrola elliptica*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Thalictrum dioicum*, *Trillum flexipes*, *Trillium grandiflorum*, *Uvularia grandiflora*, *Viburnum acerifolium*, and *Viburnum rafinesquianum*. Observations documented 190 native species with an additional 27 non-native species and a Native Mean C of 4.95 in the northern flatwoods. Observations documented 124 native species with an additional 19 non-native species and a Native Mean C of 5.21 in the mesic forest.

Symphyptrichum prenanthoides – zigzag aster

All photos submitted by Will Overbeck.

Other News, Articles, Web Links, & Videos

From the Illinois Audubon Society, read the article, **"Partners Work Together to Preserve High-quality Oak Savanna in Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park"**
tinyurl.com/RarePembrokeOakSavanna



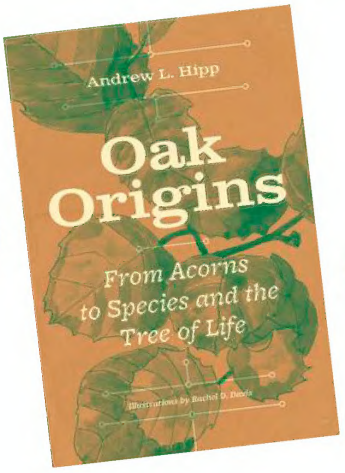
"Turf Grass Is America's Default Lawn Setting. Chicago Researchers Are Rethinking the Possibilities": read more about the **Rethinking Lawns project** from Patty Wetli at WTTW: tinyurl.com/RethinkingLawnsWTTW
And check out the project's website! rethinkinglawns.com

From Princeton Nature and Princeton Field Guides, check out the **new book *Dragonflies of North America* by Ed Lam.** The book is "a comprehensive, fully illustrated guide to every dragonfly species found in North America."
tinyurl.com/LamDragonfliesofNA

Register for the **comprehensive course "Wild Edible Plants of the Midwest"** with native plant educator and wild edibles expert Pat Armstrong, running from February through November 2025.
Learn more: marramcollaborative.com/events/wildedibles

Check out a new open-access article from the journal Ecological Solutions and Evidence, **"Challenges in the establishment of a rare plant species monitoring program using community science volunteers,"** about the Plants of Concern–Southern Illinois program.
doi.org/10.1002/2688-8319.12400

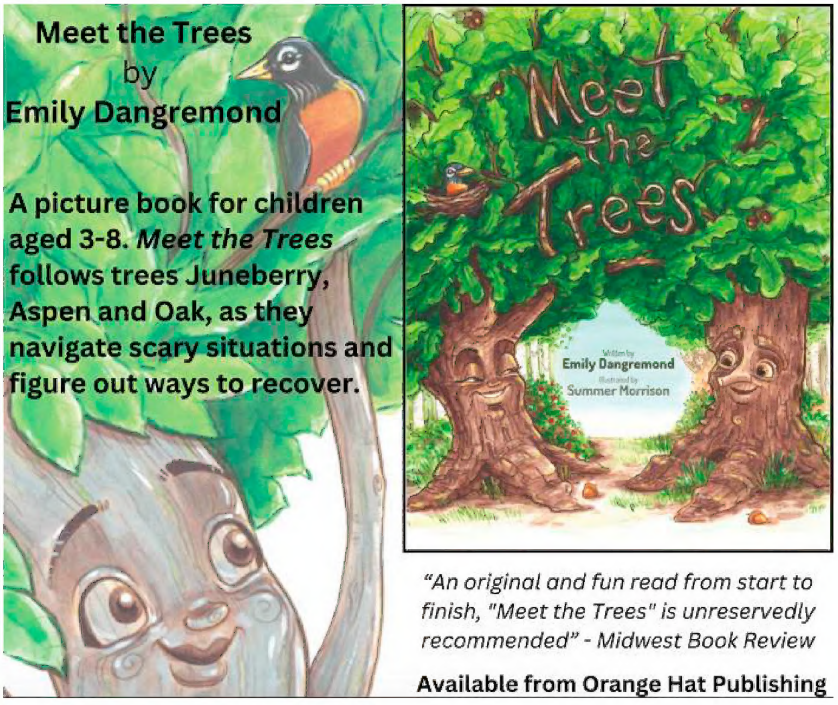
chicago botanic garden NEGAUNEE INSTITUTE | Plants of Concern



From the University of Chicago Press, check out the **new book *Oak Origins: From Acorns to Species and the Tree of Life* by Andrew L. Hipp,** illustrated by Rachel D. Davis, with a foreward by Béatrice Chassé.
tinyurl.com/HippOakOrigins

The **Indiana Native Plant Society has received a three-year grant from the Sam Shine Foundation**, enabling them to hire a contract position to support a variety of INPS programs. To earn and use the full three-year grant, INPS needs to raise $48,000, with $16,000 of that needed by June 30, 2025. Over the three years of the grant, these funds will leverage $120,000 from the Sam Shine Foundation, essentially a 2.5 match to your donation.

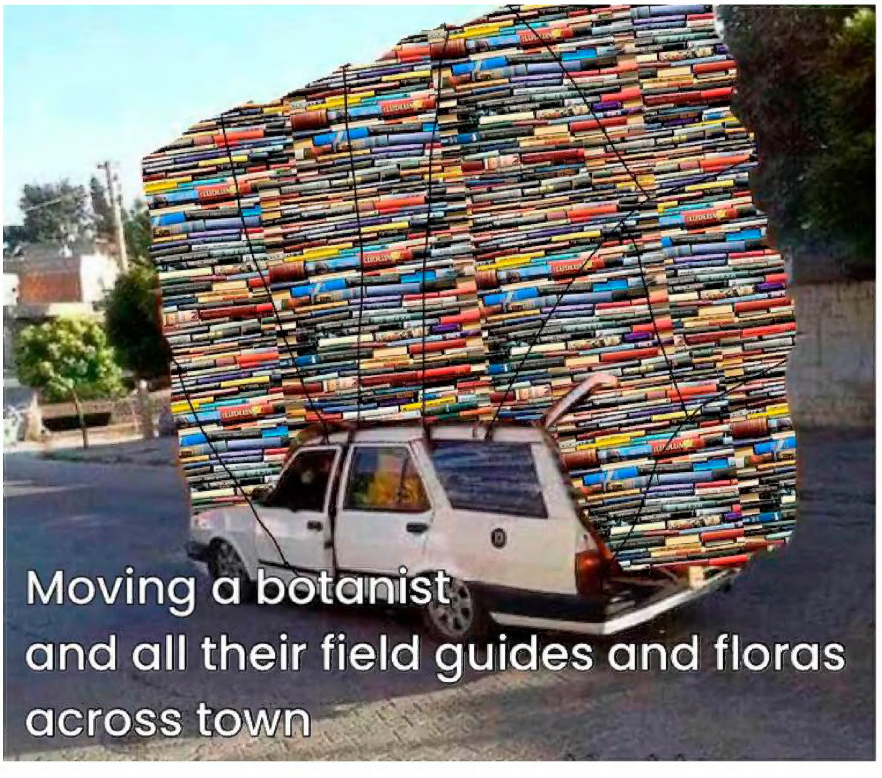
Learn more about the grant and donate here:
indiananativeplants.org/2024/matching-grant-to-help-inps-conserve-rare-native-plants/


Meet the Trees
by
Emily Dangremond
A picture book for children aged 3-8. Meet the Trees follows trees Juneberry, Aspen and Oak, as they navigate scary situations and figure out ways to recover.
Meet the Trees
Emily Dangremond
Summer Morrison
"An original and fun read from start to finish, "Meet the Trees" is unreservedly recommended" - Midwest Book Review
Available from Orange Hat Publishing

Written by INPS President Dr. Emily Dangremond, check out the new children's book *Meet the Trees*!

From Children's Bookwatch, Midwest Book Review: "*Meet the Trees* follows three trees, Juneberry, Aspen, and Oak, as they navigate scary situations and figure out ways to recover. Children will enjoy reading the *Meet the Trees* picture book to learn more about trees and the lessons they teach us about resilience. Written in rhyme by Emily Dangremond and illustrated by Summer Morrison, the story invites children to see trees as living beings who can learn and grow with each experience—just like them!"

Botany Humor



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Springfield, IL 62791

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www.illinoisplants.org

The Harbinger Winter 2024

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